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Mediators who go around proclaiming their own contradictions are bad mediators, doomed to failure by their intellectual docility in the face of Zionist coercion. That's the problem, not the PLO or the Palestinians or the many other excuses that the Israelis come up with to keep the negotiating process sidetracked. The problem is that Zionism is stronger than America, and America's mediating efforts are hamstrung by an inability to play a coherent and constructive mediating role in view of the veto that Israel has imposed on American policy. This is the contradiction that the Americans apparently are not willing to face up to, and it comes through loud and clear in Mr. Atherton's speeches.

The newspaper notes with satisfaction President Anwar Sadat's expressed readiness to attend such a summit. At the same time, the newspaper adds, the intensive efforts of President Jaafar Nimeiry of Sudan to cement Arab solidarity are indicative of Arab determination to institute a unified position, indispensable to meet the tremendous challenges threatening the Arab nation as a whole.

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Unbridled growth of Amman poses a challenge for budding regional planners

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 6 — Is Jordan becoming a city state? This is a question that has troubled planners at least since 1967. The population of Amman, already about 60 per cent of the total, is still growing at a much faster rate than the rest of the country. In 1977, 97 per cent of all manufacturing industry is concentrated in the region. A report prepared for the 1976 Development Conference went as far as to say that "asidom agriculture... Jordan's economy is the economy of a Amman region."

The government has introduced legislation, designed to regulate investment outside the area of the capital. But if any stage is necessary to stop Amman from becoming a city state, the best way of deciding how to do it is by planning a country in regions.

After a decade of talking about the idea of regional planning, it is now fast becoming a reality. The Jordan Valley Authority is already almost a regional government. The Amman Urban Region Planning Group was set up last year and is now busy designing a master plan for the area. And only last week the cabinet agreed to set up a special regional planning group with responsibility for northern Jordan.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, His Highness Prince Hassan has said "the regional plan that we have for the Amman region, which is beginning to take shape and the regional plan we have for the Jordan Valley development, will, I think, for the first time, give some kind of permanence to the idea of establishing home rule in these various areas in the years to come."

What is a region? So Jordan will be planned and maybe governed -- in future by regions. But the truth is that it has not yet been finally decided how big where these regions should be. The Amman region for instance covers an area roughly 10 kms in radius from the centre of the capital. But its boundaries are undefined and does not coincide with any administrative unit. The region is determined by principles of planning.

"A region is where the interdependence of any community is such that it is not possible to have Mr. Ahmad Hindiyeh, Deputy Director of the Amman Urban Region Planning Group, defined it.

The group is working within the framework of the five-year plan Mr. Hindiyeh said, "you have to start a step by step." The Amman region, he went on, "has never been planned to its potential and its limitations in relation to other regions."

What effect on the rest of the country, for instance does

This is the first in a three part series on regional planning in Jordan. Jordan Times reporter Ian Kellas has been interviewing officials involved in this area, which is emerging as a key factor for development planners.

It have when services and population go on spiralling up in the capital city? Are there any limits to the continued growth of Amman? Will all the springs up on the outskirts? These are the sort of questions that the Amman planning group must try to answer.

The group was set up in July last year and is now preparing a master plan for the region to be ready in time for the next five year national plan.

But Mr. Hindiyeh is insistent that the idea of a rigid master plan is no good. Planning is a dynamic process. So the group will continue in existence monitoring and adapting their plans continuously.

Part of the group's duties is to "create measures needed to secure social equity." And according to Director of the group, Mr. Ghaleb Bagasen, this includes "national equity."

"Most services are concentrated here in Amman," he explained and "it is one of our major goals to distribute such activities in other regions." Does this then mean that development of services in the capital must be slowed down? The solution, Mr. Bagasen said, is not that simple. You have to take into consideration the negative effect that a policy of that sort would have on the whole country.

Limiting factors on the growth of Amman

Up to a point, however, he believes that the problem will solve itself. Amman is unusual in having so much empty space around in which to expand but there are other factors that will limit its growth and make for more balanced development throughout the country. One of the most important of these factors is water.

Well over half the population lives in an area where only six per cent of the country's water is to be found. The favoured plan at the moment for supplying Amman is to divert water from the King Talal Dam on the Zarqa River, but before it can be used for drinking purposes,

the water will have to undergo rigorous treatment. There may come a time, Mr. Bagasen said, when people will no longer be able to afford water. This is a question which is now under study.

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American coal miners strike finally over

WASHINGTON, April 6 (R). — The final end of America's longest coal strike was assured yesterday when mine construction workers who had been holding out approved a new contract by a margin of almost two to one.

A spokesman for the United Mine Workers (UMW) union said that with all but five of 51 branches reporting the vote was 2,567 for and 1,427 against.

There were not enough potential negative votes outstanding to prevent ratification, he added.

The 160,000 coal miners approved a new contract on March 24 after a 110-day walkout.

but tentative agreement on a pact covering some 14,000 construction workers was not negotiated until three days later.

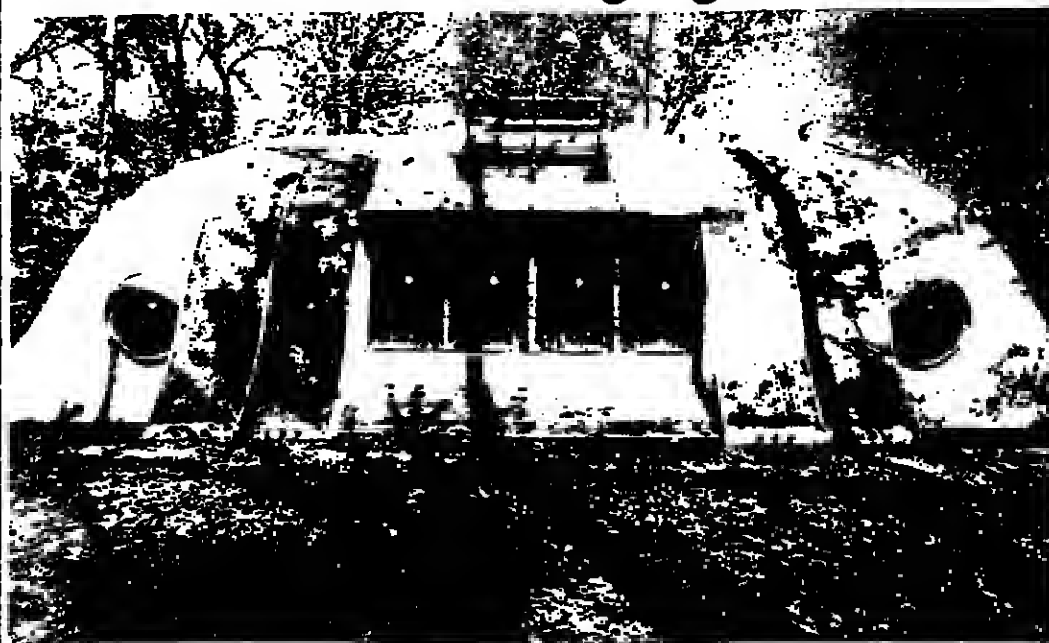
Picketing by the construction workers, who build tunnels and above-ground structures, kept thousands of miners idle for several days after the main coal strike ended.

The UMW spokesman said the low voting turnout by the construction workers -- about

30 per cent compared with the miners' 60 per cent -- was partly because of the transient nature of the work and the traditionally high turnover of employees.

The construction workers' pact gives them essentially the same settlement as the miners, who gained an increase in wages and benefits totalling about 37 per cent over three years.

Giant insect, or bug-eyed house?



At first glance, this house in southern Illinois appears to be a giant insect. Designed and built by its owners, the two-story structure combines numerous conservation and energy-saving features, from solar heating and water recycling systems to wood-burning stoves. The "eyes" are bubble-like windows which capture the sun's rays for light and heat. (UPI photo)

Saudi Arabia to build first solar-powered electricity plant

RIYADH, April 6 (R). — Saudi Arabia is to build its first electricity plant powered by solar energy under a five-million riyal (\$1.5 million) contract signed with the French firm Solfrance here yesterday.

The 240-kilowatt plant will be used for water pumping and illumination, according to the industry and electricity Minister, Dr. Ghazi Al Qusaihi, who signed the agree-

ment for Saudi Arabia. Dr. Al Qusaihi also said that his country sought effective participation in special research on solar energy. Last month it hosted an international symposium on the exploitation of solar energy. Saudi Arabia has also an agreement with the United States providing for the development of solar energy to be used in water desalination.

Law of Sea delegates approve former Sri Lankan ambassador as president of conference

GENEVA, Switzerland, April 6 (AP). — Ending a bitter nine-day procedural wrangle, delegates to the United Nations sea law talks early today decided to keep Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe as conference president.

Confirmation of the former ambassador of Sri Lanka in New York came in two rare votes in the more than four year-old talks that work on a standing rule that important

decisions should be taken by consensus.

Conference sources said the majority of delegations, standing firmly behind Mr. Amerasinghe, forced the vote as the only way out of what was shaping up as a permanent deadlock over the Latin American bloc's insistence he was no longer entitled to hold the post.

Meeting in a closed night session the conference approved a proposal by the Asian bloc of countries confirming Amerasinghe as president by a vote of 74-18 with 13 abstentions, the sources said.

Earlier the meeting threw out a Latin American proposal against Mr. Amerasinghe by a vote of 73-21 with 14 abstentions. That vote was whether the bloc's proposal, tabled by Mexico, should be given priority.

There was no vote on the proposal itself which said the presidential issue must be settled by consensus, instead of by voting.

It was precisely the failure to come up with even a clear consensus which blocked any solution and approval of the Latin American proposal could well have made the deadlock permanent.

But it was not certain the procedural battle was over and the conference can resume its work of drafting a universal convention to govern future

ocean exploration and exploitation.

The Latin American countries objected to Mr. Amerasinghe because he was fired as ambassador and delegate following a change in the Sri Lanka government. They also rejected keeping him on in his personal capacity, as his supporters proposed, a procedure to which Sri Lanka itself does not object.

Latin objection

The Latin American states have said a president representing no government could be easily manipulated and they objected to setting a precedent for a practice where an exiled politician opposing his own government may become head of a conference in which that government is a participant.

The Latin American bloc also has objected to Amerasinghe's authority in making changes in the basic conference document -- essentially a draft sea law convention worked out by the chairman of the three conference commissions on the basis of the debate in the past six sessions.

Mexico announced in a news conference two days ago, once the dispute over Mr. Amerasinghe is solved, the Latin American countries will immediately take up the issue of the president's drafting authority, no matter who he is.

Israeli teachers join wave of labour unrest

TEL AVIV, April 6 (R). — Over one million Israeli pupils and students missed classes today when their teachers declared a one-day strike, joining the wave of current labour unrest in Israel.

Labour disputes have already led to a lock-out at El Al national airline and silenced the state-owned radio and television services.

The teachers' action hit elementary and high schools and teachers' seminars, except along Israel's northern border where teachers agreed to make up for time lost during the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon.

Teachers have threatened to call an indefinite strike after the Passover recess at the end of April to press their demands for pay increases of between 30 and 35 per cent.

Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich has said that 15 per cent is the ceiling for pay increases out of the state budget.

Meanwhile, the El Al lock-out continued though El Al management complied with a court order last night to

allow two Israeli cargo jumbo jets to leave for Europe carrying farm products.

Earlier, flower-growers had threatened to strew thousands of blooms along the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road to protest against the El Al closure which had grounded thousands of flowers destined for Europe.

El Al management, backed by the government, plans to re-organise the airline following labour unrest among maintenance and administrative staff.

Airport sources said other airlines had been swamped by bookings from stranded El Al passengers since the closure on Tuesday.

Israeli radio and television services remained off the air with only army radio operating as broadcasting journalists continued their strike for an interim 25 per cent pay increase.

The Israeli Journalists Association has threatened to renew its just-concluded daily newspaper strike if the government continues to block the increase for radio and T.V. newsmen.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Not received

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Not received

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$181.00/oz.

Dollar rises in Tokyo slightly

TOKYO, April 6 (R). — The U.S. dollar rose slightly on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market today after an initial setback when it fell to the postwar record low rate of 218 yen established last Monday.

The dollar closed at 218.95 yen, compared with a 218.10 opening and 219.40 at last night's close. No central bank intervention was detected in light trading, dealers said.

The initial fall reflected the dollar's slump in New York overnight.

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ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be pleasant with others and state our aims and gain their cooperation. Avoid one who is not a good friend and could only hurt you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact advisers and gain the ideas and suggestions that can be most helpful to you. Be more aware of the feelings of loved ones and be happier. Take no risks with reputation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contact new acquaintances who can assist you to gain personal aims more quickly. Get out to group affairs where you can make new contacts. Don't neglect to pay pressing bills.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Go to the most prominent leader you know and get help you need of a "ivic nature. Do something that will be of assistance to your community.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Look into new projects that can assist you to become more successful in the future. Follow intuition about handling a very important matter. Don't listen to opinions of others who are jealous of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your promises from every angle and know best how to carry through with them intelligently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Try to get ahead on the work before you. Have a talk with co-workers and coordinate efforts more effectively. Don't be led around by the nose by an inferior.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put ideas to work that will help you to have better health and vitality. Suggestions made in the past finally begin to pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan to have more social pleasure in the future and in the circles that appeal to you. Show more devotion to those you truly like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Shop around for appliances that will make work easier. Entertain persons you like at home which could lead to fine things ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are clever now in finding better ways of increasing productivity in business, so put them to use quickly. First discuss them with your allies and get their okay. Be careful of strangers.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Put that plan to work quickly that can improve your financial status appreciably. Try to please bigwigs and get good results.

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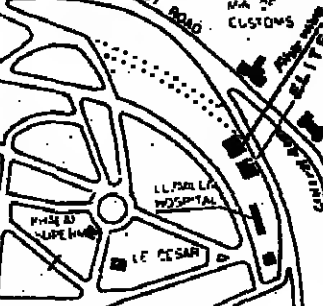
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Victoria and Albert Museum in London-- a teaching museum with a sense of fun

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London is traditionally a teaching museum, but its teaching methods have become decidedly less orthodox in recent years. Today there are jolly "happenings" such as the demonstration of trompe l'oeil painting which held parties of children more in thrall than mere interest.

By Leonore Blackwood

LONDON (LPS) — "It's not really there, it's painted," could well have been the astonished comment of many of the children who found themselves part of recent "happenings" at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. But it was also the title of this particular happening, a demonstration of trompe l'oeil painting.

And "it" wasn't really there, "it" was indeed painted -- as the children discovered when they got closer to the smiling museum attendant standing at the entrance to the room used as an artist's studio.

The dummy board figure was a likeness of a member of the museum staff, strikingly recalling the function of the old "door porters" or "silent companions" as these figures were often called in the days when they were used to delude visitors into over-estimating the number of housemaids, footmen, gardeners and grooms staffing some establishment.

Real or false?

But the artist John Ronayne was a dummy, he was very real and hard at work creating his illusions from opening to closing time for some three weeks during a recent holiday period.

Visitors found a good selection of typical subjects for a trompe l'oeil artist, all done on the spot, to intrigue them. After discovering that at a distance it was well nigh impossible to tell which was the real violin and which was painted on the wall, and distinguishing with some difficulty between actual and illusory doors on a painted wall cupboard, they could go back again to the artist and stand and watch the slow, painstaking process of making a painted letter rack look as real as the model.

Exhibitions and happenings such as "It's not really there, it's painted" which involve people are a feature of the V and A, as the museum is affectionately known, for its director Dr. Roy Strong, believes that people want to

see how things are made and how they work.

Focal point of the visit

Dr. Strong is keen that the museum should become a family museum, and if you go along there any Sunday or school holiday you will see families making a visit the highlight of a day out together. The particular "happenings" of the time often become both the focal point of the visit and the springboard to some other aspect of the museum's vast collection.

The creation of these special programmes is the responsibility of the Education Department, which started some two years ago, although from the museum's inception after the Great Exhibition of 1851 its tradition has been that of a teaching museum. Founded with the idea of being an inspiration to craftsmen, it was later expanded to cover fine as well as decorative arts.

All members of the department were formerly teachers, most of them having a speciality of their own to call on. The acting keeper, Geoffrey Squire, was originally a theatre designer and joined as a specialist on costume. With the aid of a panel of freelance teachers, a comprehensive programme free to all is organised.

Any school, college or university at home or abroad can arrange to bring a group to the museum. A great many overseas universities, particularly those in the United States of America, take advantage of this service and some groups spend two or three days at the museum.

Discussions, not lectures

Invariably, either one of their teachers makes a preliminary visit to work with the department's staff or a staff member personally takes the group around. Geoffrey Squire emphasises that as far as possible they avoid lecturing on these tours and base their teaching on discussion.

In the public area free lectures are a regular feature, usually arranged in short courses, and apart from those

in English there are days set apart for studies in French, German and Italian which are often used as language as well as art courses.

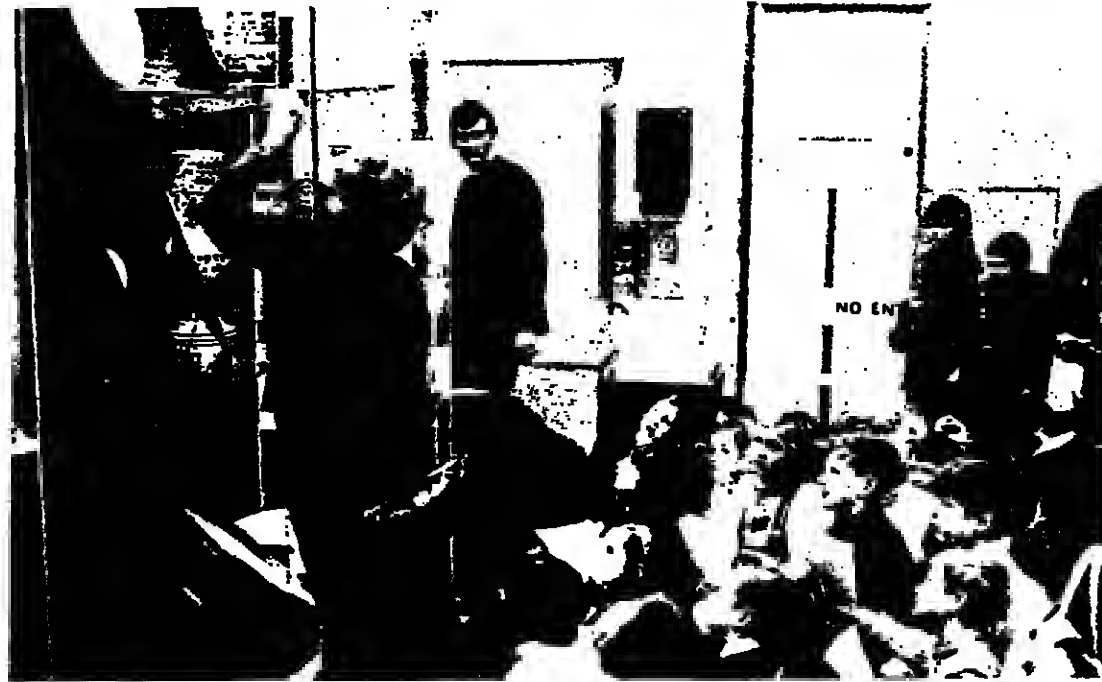
With the family in mind, the highly popular Sunday lectures are planned to be as lively as possible so that young visitors will be interested. These have had to be abandoned temporarily as the main lecture hall is being altered and redecorated, but it is business as usual when it comes to the Christmas and Easter holiday programmes for young people which the department has devised with great success.

Imagine the enchantment of a stage struck child on being able to walk on to a stage specially constructed to demonstrate the principles of the Italian and Continental system of scene changing in the 18th century theatre, and actually to work some of the effects. This happened in a past exhibition called "Secrets of the stage".

Invitation to touch

And what greater joy could there be for a young person not only to find an absence of "Please do not touch" notices but a positive invitation to do so -- even to get up on a medieval tomb and lie down on it.

"Bodybox" is aimed at getting children to appreciate sculpture and themselves in three dimensional terms, and to this end a troupe of dancers



In keeping with its traditional role as a teaching museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London is often a classroom with a difference. Here a teacher explains some of the museum's treasures to a party of schoolchildren.

children were brought in to move among the sculptures and to be touched and put into positions.

"Looking at China figures" had a craftsman from one of the porcelain factories showing the children how such figures are made, and for "A fair sword in the hand..." actors from a local drama school demonstrated that there was art and style in the use of many swords and daggers of the past, as well as in their making.

Testing their own skills

In some of the programmes children get the chance to try out their own skills, but always in relation to the museum's collection. After a period in the Costume Court, young designers were asked to design a 19th century bonnet for Easter, and a close examination of the beauty and intricacy of embroidery was followed by a practical demonstration and the handing out of materials for the

children to get down to work of their own.

The only stipulation that went with an invitation to bring along an original percussion instrument, or even an orthodox oboe, to "The sea, ships and sailors", a music workshop, was that children under seven years old should have someone with them to stop them banging it in the wrong places.

Yes, as Roy Strong claims, it's always fun at the V and A.

Ambitious Mobutu plan may stop rot in Zaire's economy

By Alan Cowell

KINSHASA, (R). — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire has launched an ambitious master plan aimed at salvaging the economy of this mineral-rich country now struggling under the weight of an estimated two-billion dollar foreign debt.

The United States, Belgium, France, Britain, West Germany, Iran and Saudi Arabia plan to meet soon to discuss implementation of the Mobutu plan.

It calls for measures to increase the country's mining output and to make Zaire self-sufficient in food supplies.

According to financial sources, South Africa is at present this country's main supplier of food imports at an annual cost to Zaire of some 300 million dollars.

Transport overhaul

The plan also aims at an overhaul of the internal trans-

port system in order to cut down on the six to eight weeks it now takes for copper exports to reach the Zaire coast from the main mining province of Shaba (formerly Katanga) in the south.

Copper exports have been hit by the closure of the Benguela railway through Marxist Angola since the former Portuguese colony's independence in 1975. More than half Zaire's exports are now transported through Zambia, Rhodesia and South Africa -- the euphemistically-titled "southern route."

Copper brings in 65 to 70 per cent of Zaire's vitally-needed foreign currency. Most of Zaire's foreign loans were made in the early 1970's when the price of copper was high.

The 1974-1975 fall in copper prices badly damaged the economy, which was also set back last year by a costly military operation against rebels in Shaba.

Bid for a loan

Whether or not Zaire gets its hands on a 210-million dollar syndicated loan led by Citibank N.A. will depend on the government agreeing to adopt a stabilisation programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and on catching up with debt repayments, according to financial sources.

Eurobankers in London said the five-year loan with an 18-month grace period will be signed in the third week of April. The funds may only be used to finance essential imports such as agricultural and industrial raw materials and spare parts.

Negotiations for the loan began in November 1978 when Zaire worked out an agreement on rescheduling around 750 million dollars' worth of loans from a group of American, European and Japanese banks.

Zaire's main creditor nations -- the United States, West Germany, Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland -- last summer agreed to reschedule interest payments on government-backed

loans to Zaire.

About 70 per cent of Zaire's estimated long-term foreign debt of two billion dollars is reported to be owed to governments.

IMF team expected

An IMF team is expected in Zaire soon and the fund will seek to play a major role in the management of the economy.

Zaire agreed last February to an IMF official taking the number two job at the Central Bank here, but experts are sceptical about how much real power he will wield in the handling of the country's hard currency revenues.

The 1978 budget is at present three months overdue because no acceptable level of deficit has yet been worked out with the IMF.

One of the economic problems besetting Zaire is a five per cent decline in terms of gross national product (GNP).

When President Mobutu unveiled his plan in a major speech last November, he castigated his countrymen for the graft and misappropriation which seem to plague the country's economy.

Failed nationalisation programme

President Mobutu also admitted that the 1973-1974 programme of compulsory nationalisation of foreign companies had failed.

According to experts, the nationalisation policy led to a drastic fall in agricultural and industrial production. The policy has now been reversed and some 10,000 Belgians, Greeks, Pakistanis and Lebanese, whose property was originally nationalised, have since returned to this country.

"It's too early to say what the impact on productivity will be," said one Western economic expert. "In the short term, the best we can hope for, is that the rot will be stopped."

He added: "The technical problems are big, but not insuperable. The real issue is the psychological one of changing the whole attitude to the economy."



THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



